



# Dental Care During Pregnancy



Results from  
Idaho's 2001 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Tracking System (PRATS)

## Did you know?

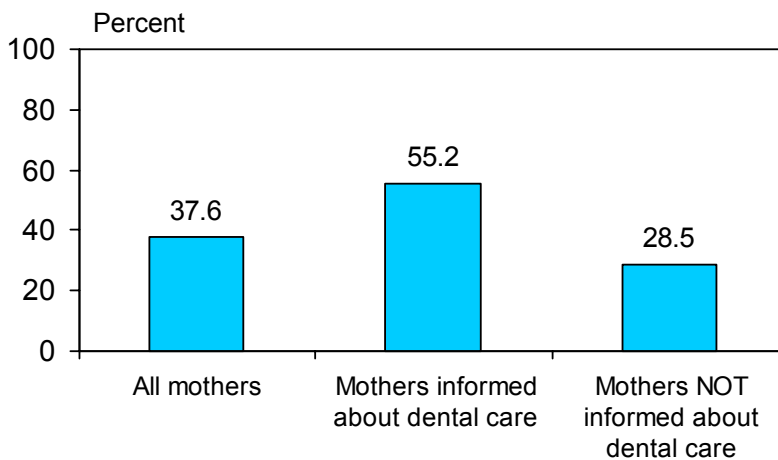
- **66% of mothers reported that their prenatal health care providers did not tell them about the importance of getting regular dental care during their most recent pregnancy.**

- **63% of mothers reported that they did NOT go to a dentist or dental clinic for routine dental care during their most recent pregnancy.**

- **50% of mothers who didn't get dental care during their pregnancy reported that they didn't have enough money or insurance to pay for the visit.**

It is important for pregnant women to maintain good oral health during their pregnancy. Studies have shown a link between serious gum disease (periodontitis), premature birth and low birth weight infants. According to data from the 2001 Idaho Pregnancy Risk Assessment Tracking System, the majority of Idaho mothers did not receive dental care or information about the importance of regular dental care during their most recent pregnancy.

## Percent of mothers who went for dental care during pregnancy



## What does the graph show?

Mothers are more likely to go for dental care if they were informed about its importance during prenatal care.

## Other reasons for not getting dental care during pregnancy

- "Could not treat me until after pregnancy due to x-rays."
- "Did not know that I should while I was pregnant."
- "Did not think I was supposed to."
- "Had been within 1 - 2 years of getting pregnant."
- "I did not know it was important."
- "I never thought about it and they never told me."
- "I was not advised to do so."
- "I was told you couldn't have any work done while pregnant."
- "I was afraid it would hurt my baby."

Source: 2001 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Tracking System, Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics, Division of Health, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. 4/03.  
Sponsored by: MCH Title V Block Grant and SSDI Grant (Health Resources and Services Administration) A collaboration between the Oral Health Program and the Perinatal Health Surveillance Program

Note: Definition of Mother: Idaho resident mothers 18 years of age or older.

For more information about dental care during pregnancy, call (208)334-5966 or about PRATS, call (208)334-5965.



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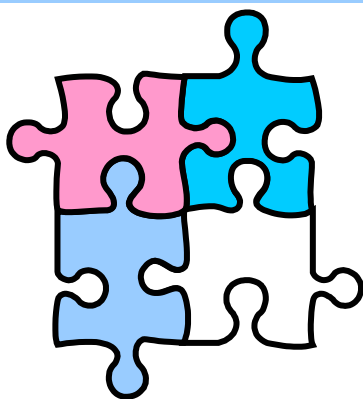
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## Oral Health Care During Pregnancy

It is important for pregnant women to maintain good oral health and seek timely treatment for dental problems for these reasons\*:

- Pregnancy increases the risk for certain oral diseases (e.g., gingivitis).
- Bacteria that cause dental decay can be transmitted from mother to infant during feeding.
- Recent research suggests an association between maternal periodontitis and having a low birth weight baby.

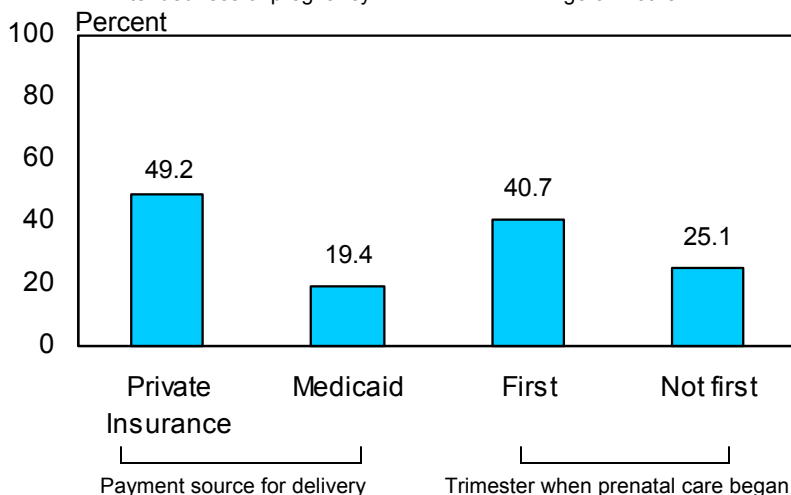
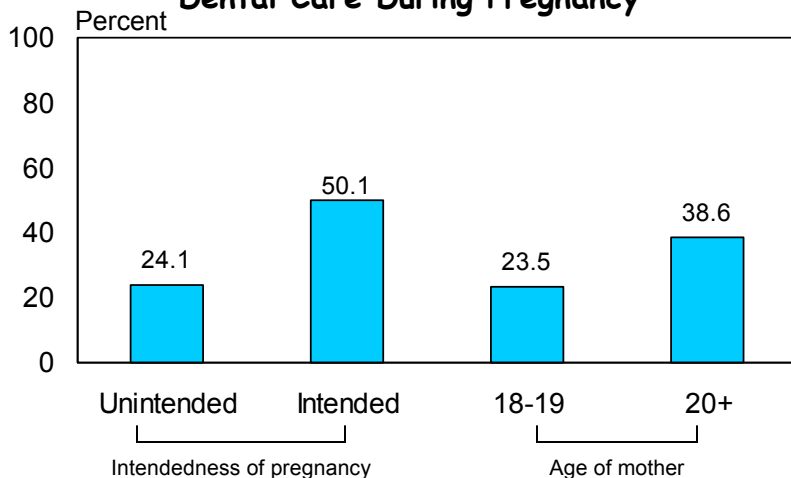
\*Source: CDC Publication "PRAMS and Oral Health", May 2001



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## Percent of Mothers Receiving Routine Dental Care During Pregnancy



## What do these graphs tell us?

- Mothers who intended to be pregnant were twice as likely to receive routine dental care during pregnancy compared with mothers who had an unintended pregnancy.
- Mothers 20 years of age or older were more likely to receive routine dental care during pregnancy (38.6 percent) than women 18-19 years of age (23.5 percent).
- Mothers with private insurance were over twice as likely to receive routine dental care during pregnancy as mothers utilizing Medicaid.
- In 2001, 40.7 percent of mothers who began prenatal care in the first trimester received routine dental care, compared with 25.1 percent of mothers who began prenatal care after the first trimester.